

TITLE: Honoring the Heroes of Telemark

AUTHOR: (b)(3)(c)

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50th anniversary

## Honoring the Heroes of Telemark

(b)(3)(c)

History was both made and celebrated at CIA Headquarters on 10 February 1993. A ceremony was held in the atrium of the new headquarters building to open a photographic exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the sabotage raid in Norway on the heavy water plant at Vemork in the province of Telemark. A detailed account of the raid, "The Action at Vemork," by Claus Helberg, was published in the Winter 1992 edition of *Studies in Intelligence*.

The raid was conducted by nine Norwegian saboteurs, including Helberg, who had been trained in England. It resulted in a significant delay in Germany's efforts to build an atomic bomb. The Germans needed the heavy water as a moderator in their efforts to activate an atomic pile. The raid was the first successful paramilitary effort in history to counter the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Over 93 persons lost their lives in the two-year battle for heavy water in Norway. But the sabotage raid was conducted so skillfully that not a shot was fired, and there were no casualties. After the war, the US

Government awarded six of the Norwegian saboteurs the nation's highest civilian award—the Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm.

Helberg and the chief of the Norwegian Intelligence Service, Maj. Gen. Alf Berg, who retired on 1 May 1993, were honored guests at the ceremony, and they were officially welcomed by Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Adm. William O. Studeman. After being presented a commemorative copy of his *Studies in Intelligence* article, Helberg gave a brief acceptance speech in which he thanked those present for the opportunity to attend the ceremony. He was followed by Major General Berg, who commented on the little-known positive effect that the raid had on the morale of the Norwegian public during the German occupation.

The following day, Helberg held two seminars at CIA Headquarters, in which he described the background and operation of the sabotage raid. Both seminars played to capacity audiences of enthusiastic employees.

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*Claus Helberg at CIA Headquarters*

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